

The Maryland Yellowthroat

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YMOS
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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BBA3

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Editor's Note

As I write this, the Amazon is an inferno. Home to one of the most diverse biomes on Earth and producer of six percent of our planet's oxygen, it was intentionally set ablaze with the blessing of the Brazilian government. That, along with the recent proposal to strip the Endangered Species Act, the weakening of environmental protections at the federal level, and the change to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (which absolves individuals and companies from killing birds), is another punch to the gut when it comes to breathable air, drinkable water, bird conservation, and ensuring a livable environment for future generations.

The Amazon Rainforest seems far away, but in terms of a shared planet, a shared atmosphere, and shared oceans, it may as well be our own backyard. When I gaze out on the horizon from my kitchen window, I don't see Amazonia, I see Sugarloaf Mountain (the other Sugarloaf Mountain, the one in Maryland) and my concerns narrow to my own backyard — our backyard.

Over the past ten years, I have met people who have witnessed the last of a species, interviewed biologists working toward saving threatened whale populations, worked with wildlife rehabilitators, and have spent a lot of time looking for a particular bird in my own backyard that has not been seen in almost a decade (due to habitat loss). These people and experiences have given me much to contemplate, and I have enrolled their words and insights into my own efforts.

We already know what the solutions to these issues are, one of which is sharing the joy of birding and nature with young people. Doing so opens gateways to appreciation and, hopefully, eventual devotion to nature preservation. The content in this issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat* reflects on how our membership is doing just that.

If it feels like the world is on fire, that is because it is, but we must not despair, we must persevere. We must continue to do our best to share the joy of birding and nature in our own backyard, and being a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society is certainly one way to do that.

Thank you for all that you do for birds and bird conservation in Maryland (and abroad).

Orietta C. Estrada, Editor
The Maryland Yellowthroat
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Correction: In a previous issue we printed the BirdSavers website incorrectly.
The Correct website address is: www.birdsavers.com.



President's Corner



Third Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA3) – Progress Report

Excitement is growing for the fast-approaching BBA3! As announced at the MOS convention in early June, the third Atlas will kick off on January 1, 2020, and preparations are well underway. Here is an update.

Steering Committee

Atlas Steering Committee meetings have been held at roughly two-week intervals since the start of the year at the DNR offices in Annapolis. We appreciate DNR's hospitality!

Contract with Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The contract governing the use of Cornell Lab of Ornithology's (CLO) eBird-based database and atlas app, customized for BBA3, has been signed and a check for \$41,250 was sent to CLO as the start-up payment. This will be followed by annual payments of \$8,250 from 2020 through 2024.

Project Coordinator Hired

The project coordinator is arguably the most important single position in an atlas. In April advertisements for this position were placed on various bird and environmental media sites and publications. We received 26 applications, although one later withdrew. We were impressed with the quality of the candidates and their enthusiasm for the project. The atlas Steering Committee narrowed the field down to six candidates, with difficulty. After interviewing these finalists in early July, we unanimously selected Gabriel Foley as the project coordinator.

Gabriel is a Canadian and hails from the prairies of Regina, Saskatchewan. He is an active birder and has been an avid user of eBird since 2009. Although he is from north of the border, Gabriel has birded extensively in Maryland and recently completed his eBird lists for all the state's counties with a visit to Garrett County. He holds a BS and an MS in biology, and is the regional coordinator for Canada's national nightjar survey. Gabriel hosts his own weekly radio show that covers natural history and conservation themes from the prairies. He is active on social media (@birdnirdfoley)

and regularly leads bird walks. Gabriel will introduce himself more fully to MOS in the near future. We are very pleased to welcome him to the BBA3 team!

County Coordinators

County coordinators are vital for any atlas; they ensure that all blocks have adequate coverage, monitor progress, and maintain morale, amongst their many tasks. As of July 25, we had people confirmed as coordinators for every county, except Ann Arundel, Caroline, Howard, Montgomery, Somerset and Washington (although several people were considering signing up). Some counties will have two or even three coordinators; this will spread the duties and allow for back up. County coordinators do not have to live in the County for which they are coordinators; out-of-county birders can be coordinators. The Committee thanks those who have stepped up so far and agreed to be county coordinators.

Atlas Logo

An arresting and memorable logo is a key feature for any new project. We put out a call to the MOS membership for draft logos for BBA3. Two MOS members submitted some nice designs. The Committee debated whether to use the design of BBA1 and BBA2 (a Baltimore oriole superimposed on a map of the state) for the sake of continuity, or to have a new, more abstract and – hopefully - memorable design. After some consideration, the Committee opted to ask a professional designer, Mollee Brown of Nighthawk Advertising Solutions, to design a series of draft logos. By the time you read this, the new logo should have been chosen.

Atlas Website

In today's electronic world, a good website is another key component of any large project. We are still at an early stage in deciding on the website design. As in other state atlas projects, the website will likely be a series of linked portals with certain information housed by each of the major partnering entities, including CLO, DNR and MOS. DNR will be hosting some information, but may not be able to build and host a fully-functional and flexible website in a timely fashion. Thus MOS will likely need to take this on, but we will

probably need professional help from a professional web designer, or we may pursue options with other partners. A major decision is whether to incorporate the BBA3 website as an integral part of the MOS website or to have it linked to the MOS site.

The Committee is also looking to other atlases (such Virginia, Maine, and Wisconsin) for ideas and for the possible sharing of templates so that we would not have to start from scratch. Anyone with website skills who would be interested in helping with web design or maintenance, please let us know.

Data Collection and Analysis

The Committee has been discussing the block grid with Ian Davies of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Maryland and the District of Columbia are divided into 1431 atlas blocks, including 112 blocks containing only water (e.g. in the Chesapeake Bay) and several dozens more that are mostly water. During the last atlas, some blocks containing mostly water or straddling the state line were left out of the project, for various reasons, including the small size of the land area within Maryland. Questions under discussion include how to handle blocks that are all water (i.e., channel markers frequently have Osprey nests), or are almost all water with a sliver of land in the MD/DC area. This may seem a bit geeky, but it is important because it will impact the coverage and amount of effort we are asking of atlasers.

A decision has yet to be made on whether or not to emphasize extra coverage in certain blocks (i.e., "quarterblock" coverage). At the time of writing, the Committee is leaning towards not having them since little use was made of quarterblock data in BBA1 and BBA2. Because eBird collects location-specific data, it should be possible, to analyze data within a quarterblock grid after the data have been generated, if desired.

Fundraising

Committee member Ed Vigezzi has been leading the exploration of funding options. Amongst other ideas, the Committee intends to raise funds by offering

sponsoring opportunities for individuals and organizations to adopt various bird species. Sponsorships would be for certain dollar amounts for 1-5 years. Certain iconic species, such as the Common Raven and the Baltimore Oriole, would command higher sponsorship levels. Species of conservation concern that are rare or are endangered breeders in Maryland would also be offered at higher funding levels, whereas the House Sparrow and European Starling might be bargain-priced. Sponsorships can be made in honor or memory of another person. Another likely fund raising source will be from the sale of BBA3-themed merchandise (T-shirts, mugs, water bottles, coffee mats, etc).

Volunteers Needed

Although much progress has been made, the success of the Atlas will ultimately depend upon the continued help from volunteers and sustained partnerships with Maryland's avian community. There will be plenty to do as the January 1 start date approaches. Training and publicity will be particularly important in the early phases. BBA3 will also need field workers, who are the foot soldiers of any atlas. In the 2002 – 2006 atlas, nearly 1,000 such hardy souls contributed observations from their home blocks or explored areas farther afield. Please consider joining and doing your bit this atlas!

Best regards,



Robin Todd, President

Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

Supporting youth and communities...and BIRDS!

Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth (<https://bit.ly/2NqUyXc>) is shaping up to be a major first-of-its-kind event. Fourteen speakers have been confirmed, along with Youth Keynote speakers, Patrick Newcombe and Claire Wayner (YMOsers), and Keynote speaker Scott Weidensaul.

The organizing committee has announced that, after conference expenses are covered, all additional funds will be donated to youth-focused conservation and education programs. Attendees will vote for one of the three programs. Funds will then be allocated on 50-30-20% basis to each of the three programs. The Maryland Avian Research and Conservation (MARC) Fund for Youth is one of the three programs that will share this donation! The other two are Hog Island Audubon Camp (youth programs) and Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Ohio Young Birders Program. The MARC Committee is working on the application criteria and form, and we hope to have this completed by early fall.

MOS is a sponsor of the symposium at the Partner (\$500) level. Several MOS chapters are intending to become sponsors (information was not finalized before the article submission deadline). I invite ALL MOS chapters to consider becoming a sponsor of this event. Anticipated conference expenses are 90% covered, so your sponsorship will help support the MARC Fund and other youth-focused conservation and education efforts as they begin to expand their avian interests beyond birding into a possible career path.

Bird City Maryland

Bird City Maryland, a program launched this year through the MBCP Sustainability Working Group, will be announcing its first Bird City recipient this fall! While we can't reveal the town just yet, we are working with an enthusiastic group of community leaders who are eager to receive this recognition and promote bird conservation in their community. In addition, we have several other communities actively documenting their accomplishments that will meet Bird City criteria.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce that the MBCP has received 501(c)(3) non-profit status. This will facilitate our ability to apply for grant funding. We are as focused as ever on conserving Maryland's birds and their habitats. The ongoing support of MOS is a vital component of our operational foundation, and will be invaluable as we pursue project-focused grants. Naturally, we are grateful to receive other forms of support.

Chris Eberly, MBCP

Our annual Convention was held May 31 - June 2, 2019 at Washington College in Chestertown, MD. There were 148 attendees and among the attendees, we had someone from Scotland and someone who arrived by boat, firsts for the convention. All the field trips went well. We finished with the Tally Rally and 151 species were found over the weekend. CCC's Jim Rapp who created the new MOS convention website and managed the field trips, brought a surprise guest for Sunday lunch and the Tally Rally, former US Representative Wayne Gilchrest of the 1st Congressional District of Maryland.

Photo Contest Results:

First - Short-eared Owl submitted by Wade Stephens

Second - Bald Eagles submitted by Ron Ketter

Third - Great Egret submitted by Sarah Romero

We had sponsors and multiple vendors this year, many of whom provide items for the raffle. The raffle made over \$800.

Renew Your Membership Online

The MOS membership year ends August 31, 2019. We encourage you to renew your MOS and chapter membership for 2019-2020 online via the MOS website. Renewing online allows you to efficiently pay dues, update your address and select several options.

To renew please visit <https://mdbirds.org/login/>. You'll be asked for your email address, which is your MOS userID and password. If you've never logged in or if you've forgotten your password, request a

password reset (click "Forgot Password") and follow the directions, then log in after receiving a temporary password.

After successfully logging in, select "Join" from the menu bar, then "Members Only", and finally "Account". On the Account page, there are several options: "Home" will show your personal information and selections that you may update, while the "Subscription" selection will show you a table of your memberships. To the right side of the table you'll see the word

"Renew" which, when clicked, shows dues for your membership level and also your account information again. At the bottom of the page click "Register" to redirect you to a PayPal page. Make sure you click "Pay Now" on the PayPal page to complete your transaction. That's it, but please contact me at webmaster@mdbirds.org if you have difficulties with these steps. MOS thanks you for renewing—online or via your local chapter.

Tom Strikwerda, Webmaster

Request for convention 2020 committee members

Planning is underway for the 2020 MOS Convention and we hope to finalize the location and dates shortly. We are in need of several new members for the convention committee to organize this event. The instructions for running a convention have been clearly summarized, with each task (e.g., registration or finding speakers) given separately. New members will therefore have an easy-to-follow set of instructions. Experienced members of the committee will be on hand to help newcomers with any questions. Regular committee meetings, most via telephone conference, will also assist them. The annual convention is an essential event for our society, but it can only happen if enough members step up and join the effort. This convention will be special because it will celebrate our 75th year as an organization. Please consider joining our team.

If you are interested, please contact Robin Todd at robin todd1948@gmail.com or 410-491-5333.



Conservation Committee

Early in the season we sent letters to the General Assembly on the Sustainable Buildings Act and Chlorpyrifos Ban. Sustainable Buildings passed both Chambers, but the two versions could not be reconciled by session's end. Chlorpyrifos was not submitted to the full Senate. Both bills will be reintroduced next year.

Committee efforts were largely focused on the Oxon Cove issue. The Governor seeks to get title to Oxon Cove Park and Farm for the purpose of development, possibly into a welcome center. This is a National Park, used extensively by the local community, falls within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, and supports breeding eagles. We sent another set of letters to the Governor, Maryland's US Senators, Representative Brown, and PG County Executive and Council. The letter was joined by Patuxent Bird Club, PG Audubon, Southern Maryland Audubon, Audubon Naturalist Society, Audubon Maryland-DC, and Audubon Society of the District of Columbia. Meanwhile, the National Parks Conservation Association has joined and taken lead of the struggle. They have begun assembling a coalition, that included the Potomac Riverkeeper, and have set up a sign on letter, which MOS has joined. Familiarization walks have also been arranged. Kurt attended one.

The only other letter was to EPA and Corps of Engineers, opposing the roll-back of the Waters of the US rule, which would provide protection under the clean water act to small and ephemeral streams, protecting clean drinking water and wildlife habitat. George Alderson drafted, with input from Gail MacKiernan.

For sign on letters, we joined one led by Audubon Naturalist Society regarding the Rock Creek Park Nature Center Complex Development Plan, seeking to minimize damage to habitat for migrant warblers.

We joined a National Wildlife Federation letter to USDA on Natural Resources Conservation Service standards, promoting use of native plants.

Long-time member and former Chair Maureen Harvey has stepped down. Harford Club member Deb Bowers has joined the committee. Deb has extensive experience dealing with land use in Harford and Carroll Counties.

Kurt Schwarz, Chair

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report

July 24, 2019

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 179 through 180. MD/DCRC report numbers are shown in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. No new “state” species were included in these decisions for either MD or DC. The total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC remain 453 and 341, respectively.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee’s web page at the following URL: <https://bit.ly/2G3i0o9>

MD Records Accepted

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2018-082] Friendly Farm, Upperco, Baltimore County. 05-Dec-2018 through 15-Dec-2018. One bird.

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [MD/2019-004] Lake Whittier, Frederick, Frederick County. 11-Jan-2019 through 14-Jan-2019. One bird.

Barrow’s Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica* [MD/2019-001] Elms Environmental Education Center, Dameron, Saint Mary’s County. 01-Jan-2019 through 18-Jan-2019. One adult male.

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2011-402] Castaways RV Resort & Campground, Berlin, Worcester County. 13-Nov-2011. One bird.

Allen’s Hummingbird, *Selasphorus sasin* [MD/2019-037] Piney Point, Saint Mary’s County. 23-Nov-2018 through 23-Dec-2018. One HY male.

Calliope Hummingbird, *Selasphorus calliope* [MD/2018-074] Cape St. Claire, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County. 11-Nov-2018 through 30-Dec-2018. One HY male.

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinicus* [MD/2019-052] Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Prince George’s County. 24-May-2019. One bird.

Wilson’s Plover, *Charadrius wilsonia* [MD/2019-049] Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County. 03-May-2019. One female.

Wilson’s Plover, *Charadrius wilsonia* [MD/2019-050] Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County. 03-May-2019. One male.

Thick-billed Murre, *Uria lomvia* [MD/2019-023] Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County. 23-Jan-2019 through 03-Feb-2019. One bird.

Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica* [MD/2019-044] Wildfowl Trust of North America/Chesapeake Bay Environmental Ctr, Grasonville, Queen Anne’s County. 04-Apr-2019 through 08-Apr-2019. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2014-075] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 21-Sep-1985. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2014-076] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 12-Aug-1991. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2008-057] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 22-Aug-2008. One bird.

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2019-005] Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Lexington Park, Saint Mary’s County. 10-Jan-2019. One bird.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2018-083] Betterton, Kent County. 06-Sep-2018. One adult.

Rock Wren, *Salpinctes obsoletus* [MD/2019-035] Bushwood, Saint Mary’s County. ~15-Dec-2018 (“Since Dec”) through 09-Apr-2019. One adult. Northern ssp.

Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius* [MD/2018-086] Leonardtown, Saint Mary’s County. 22-Dec-2018 through 01-Mar-2019. One bird.

LeConte’s Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii* [MD/2019-008] Price Creek Environmental Area, Stevensville, Queen Anne’s County. 18-Jan-2019. One bird.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Barrow’s Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica* [MD/2019-040] Potomac River, Knoxville, Washington County. 31-Jan-2019. One adult male.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2012-144] Epping Forest, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County. 06-Aug-1959 through 07-Aug-1959. One bird.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2010-098] Fort McHenry National Monument, Baltimore City, Baltimore County. 04-Jun-2010. One bird.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2010-120] Conn Island, Great Falls, Montgomery County. 27-Jun-2010. One bird.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2012-046] Swan Creek Wetlands/Cox Creek DMCF, Solley, Anne Arundel County. 13-May-2012. One bird.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2013-087] Columbia, Howard County. 22-Sep-2013. One bird.

White-tailed Hawk, *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* [MD/2018-081] Cambridge, Dorchester County. 12-Nov-2018. One bird.

Northern Flicker (Red-shafted), *Colaptes auratus* (red-shafted for [MD/2018-061] Centennial Park, Columbia, Howard County. 18-

Aug-2018. One bird.

Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii* [MD/2018-060]
Rocky Gap State Park, Flintstone, Allegany County. 09-Oct-2018.
One bird.

DC Records Accepted

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinicus* [DC/2019-002] Logan

Circle, NW, Logan Circle, Logan Circle. 05-Jan-2019. One immature.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis*
[DC/2010-126] East Potomac Park, SW, Hains Point, Hains Point.
07-Sep-1935 through 17-Sep-1935. One bird.

Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

YMOS News Fall 2018

YMOS Teams Dominate Every Category at the World Series of Birding

Twenty-two Maryland youth participated in the World Series of Birding last May in Cape May, NJ. Competing in every youth division, the five Maryland teams all won their categories, basically sweeping every possible category.

The High School Division, YMOS Marsh Giggles, captained by Daniel Irons, won their division with an amazing 209 species found in 24 hours, topping the Second place team by 48 species. Their score was also the top score of the day, adult teams included. The rest of the team included Aaron Graham, Patrick Newcombe, Oliver Patrick, and Jonathan Irons. The adult division was won by the Cornell Redheads, headed up by Alex Wiebe, a YMOS "graduate".

The Middle School Division, YMOS Scope Owls, won their division with 155 species found in their 3 AM – 10 PM time frame, actually getting all their species without even leaving Cape May County. This was 33 species more than the adult winner of the Cape May County Division. Max Ramey captained that team, which also included Aaron Reb, Ethan Green, Forrest Baublitz, and Gabe Evans.

The Elementary Division was a runaway for the YMOS Peakakapo Kites, captained by Nara Anusonti-Inthra, as they found 105 species in their 5 AM – 8 PM time frame. Nara was joined by her brother Tyme, Alina Ramey, and Annie Evans.

YMOS had two teams competing in the Carbon Free Division, and they tied for First with 135 species found, a new WSB record for that division. In this division, teams must bird the entire day by carbon-free transportation. One of the teams was seen pedaling through the secondary sand dunes at 4:30 AM to get ready for their 5 AM start. The Pedaling Petrels were captained by Joshua Heiser and included Josie Kalbfleisch, Keely Ferrando, and Tully Hochhausler. The YMOS Cycling Swifts were captained by Jack Hutchison and included Nathan Tea and Hannes Leonard.

The group was accompanied by a large parent support team who coached, drove, and provided emergency relief for the teams which were literally spread across New Jersey. This incredible experience was made possible by the incredible support of MOS members who donated close to \$6,000 in this year's Birdathon. The donations completely covered all the expenses and left a small surplus for us to be able to upgrade some of the optics we use.

What others noted much more than the impressive results was the incredible teamwork, not only within each team, but among the five teams, who worked and planned together. To anyone thinking that there is anything wrong with the youth of America today, one need look no farther than the amazing Maryland, Delaware, and DC youth birders. This summer finds many at youth birding camps around the country with several involved in avian research around the world.

George Radcliff, YMOS

Place Your Announcement in *The Yellowthroat*

Reach members interested in your services by placing an announcement in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. For more information, please contact the Editor: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Families



YT: What is your occupation?

WJH: I'm a software engineer by day. I recently moved from a cybersecurity management role to a new software development role doing neat virtual reality stuff. I recently changed companies to facilitate a move to California. Don't worry — I'm staying on with MBP and hoping to be around quite a bit.

Jim Brighton and I founded Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP) in 2012. MBP is a 501(c)3 non-profit focused on cataloging all the living things in Maryland. Our amazing community has documented over 18,000 species in the state! We work to promote science, conservation, and education/outreach efforts. You can check out our site and look up any species in the state at <https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com> as well as follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

YT: How do you get your kids outside?

WJH: We started young and it's just something expected on any day off. There are times when it's too uncomfortably hot or cold, but most of the time it's just a given that we'll spend some time outside. We go out even on rainy days, letting them splash in puddles and get dirty. The girls like going out for all day "adventures" and they often ask if we can "beat the sun up", getting on the road before sunrise.

Our schedule might involve walks, fishing, playing in streams, or going to a beach (even on the bay). Whatever we do, I don't push too hard on any one area. I let them get into what interests them and the rest is on offer. They are always much more drawn to things they can touch. Birds always lose to a beetle in the hand or fish in the bucket. (Unless we're at a banding station, of course! They about died of happiness holding birds at the Chino Farms banding station. Thanks, Maren Gimpell!)

YT: Can you share a favorite moment outdoors with your family?

WJH: Very difficult to choose, but I'll go with our first family camping trip at New Germany State Park in Garrett County. They were ecstatic about every part of the trip, from setting up camp, to cooking, to finding cool bugs (many rare ones for MBP!), etc. The only tough part was that they were so excited they hardly slept all night, staring up through the tent at the stars. Lately, I'm especially fond of playing in streams: catching little fish, crayfish, dragonflies, and other stream creatures. Anyone with kids knows how much nearly every kid loves water, and you can find awesome critters. Any wooded stream will also have birds, of course!

YT: Do you have any advice for parents that might not be very outdoorsy, but still want to get their children involved with nature and the outdoors?

WJH: Sure, first, there was a quote on that from Neil deGrasse Tyson that I loved. It was essentially "get out of their way." Leave a magnifying glass out and they will find it and use it. Overall I think this is true. If you set up a scenario where they can run and splash, they are likely to jump on it. OK, more specifically, here are some good ones:

- Let them use the technology. If you can give them the camera, let them use Google Maps on your phone, carry a net, or anything similar, you will keep their attention much longer.
- Be versatile. Follow their lead on what interests them. You'll get way more time in the field.
- Want them interested in birds? Personify them! Grackles were invisible until we called them Mean Grackles for chasing around away some of the other birds at the feeders. They could care less about White-throated Sparrows until we made fun of (presumed) younger birds singing their song poorly. To this day, they like to sing "Poor poor body body Sam" in discordant tones, laughing.



YT: How do you get your kids outside?

Persistence. We try to make it fun but that doesn't always work. Sometimes "hike" is a four-letter word.

MW: Have you faced any challenges getting them outdoors?

Fortunately, for the last few years, we've had yards where they can get outside fairly easily with room to roam a bit. But, when we want to go somewhere, it's often a production. Water bottles, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray, even footwear seem to mysteriously vanish when they are sought for a quick outing.

YT: How have you worked through those challenges?

MW: We are working on implementing a "go bag" to leave in the car with some of the essentials so that we don't have to spend more time getting into the car than we spend outside. I've also been known to bribe (reward) a successful hike with a small piece of candy. That can be a motivator and help them get their mind off of their tired legs or the long train ahead for just long enough for them to actually enjoy their surroundings.

YT: Can you share a favorite moment outdoors with your family?

MW: My son has been birding with me for nearly all of his 12 years. Two days after he turned one, someone posted photos on a listserv of a gorgeous, breeding-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon on a reservoir 45 mins away from our prior home in Utah. I took my son, strapped him in the car, and then in a bike trailer, and rode with him down the trail to get to the viewing point where the loon had been seen. No luck. I'm not sure whether it was the all-important meeting that I had to go to (that I now don't even remember) or the hungry and irritable 1-year-old but I decided NOT to go back and try for the loon, even though I knew it was likely less than a quarter mile away. Later that evening someone watched the loon fly up and away and it was never seen again! We now have a pretty solid nemesis bird that

someday we'll see (and my son will be old enough to remember).

A more recent success story, on a trip in early July 2019 to Rocky Mountain National Park in CO, the whole family came along. We all went out and all the kids were trying to find "a bird that looked like a rock", even though only the two avid birders were really excited to see this lifer. I caused quite a stir when I found rock that looked (very much) like a bird. False alarm! We were heading home at noon the next day and were staying about an hour from the Ptarmigan spot. So, my son and I got up at 5 am and tried again. This time, we reached the end of the trail and found a sunny hillside that was out of the wind and within a minute of searching, we found our lifer White-tailed Ptarmigan and enjoyed great looks as a lone bird preened, sun- and dust-bathed on the alpine tundra amidst similarly-patterned rocks and miniature wildflowers.

YT: Do you have any advice for parents that might not be very outdoorsy, but still want to get their children involved with nature and the outdoors?

MW: Nature is therapeutic. Even if parents don't consider themselves "outdoor people" there are great benefits to letting your kids natural curiosity and energy that indoor and urban spaces can't quite satisfy. I think distance can be a huge barrier in some cases. If you only have an hour or two, driving 30-mins or more means that you're in the car more than you're outside. That sometimes feels worse than staying home. In nearly every city, you can find pockets of green and places to explore. New York's Central Park is the classic (almost cliché) example but there are many oft-overlooked places to find nature. I actually think it's thrilling to tap into something amazing in the natural world in one of these areas that the majority of city-dwellers don't even notice or know takes place right under their noses.

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

My husband and I rented a house on the southern shore of Lake Erie only a few miles from Magee Marsh in the town of Oak Harbor, Ohio for the 10th Anniversary of The Biggest Week in Birding. Magee Marsh is a prime stopover for North American warblers during spring migration. Every year thousands of birders, photographers, and nature lovers flock to this location to witness the large songbird concentrations preparing to migrate across the great lake toward their breeding grounds in the north. The Biggest Week hosts many events throughout the 10 day festival, with workshops, speakers, guided walks with celebrity authors and bird walks & photography classes. Evenings can be filled socializing with friends at tattoo & karaoke contests, dances, movie & trivia nights and more. You could start bird watching before entering the Maumee Lodge, where registration and most of the evening events took place, by watching the Cliff Swallows as they built mud nests under the eaves of the entrance.



The climate varied drastically from day to day as did the birds that were migrating through in abundance from the moment we arrived. I was there to see Warblers and I was not disappointed. Each morning I was greeted by the 'sweet-sweet-I'm-so-sweet' song of Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and with the full-bodied and melodious song of our state bird the Baltimore Oriole. One frisky pair of Baltimore Orioles flitted around a log near the boardwalk entrance, seemingly unconcerned by the Black-throated Blue & Black-throated Green Warblers, Ovenbirds, and bird watchers nearby.

The luminescent colors of the Prothonotary, Canada, and Magnolia Warblers showed so brightly against the dark understory of the marsh, that it almost brought tears to your eyes. A crisply striped Black-and-white Warbler crept along the tree trunks probing the bark for insects. Black-billed & Yellow-billed Cuckoos were spotted in the same tree, while a plump Woodcock walked below, camouflaged against the leaf litter, probing for worms. One sunny morning an Eastern Screech Owl was easily viewed trying to blend into a tree along the boardwalk only feet above the onlookers, while a usually hard to spot Common Nighthawk lounged on a limb not far away and a Nashville Warbler went about finding breakfast.

At Magee Marsh you quickly come to realize that all bets are off. A bird that is usually seen high atop a tree can surprise you at 7 feet off the ground, as did the Scarlet Tanagers and Blackburnian Warblers. A secretive bird like the Sora, who usually spends its time hidden in dense marshy growth, bathed unconcerned only 4 feet away, while a Sedge Wren flitted silently beside the boardwalk and could easily be missed, as well as the 4-foot long Common Water Snake lounging near the boardwalk railing - yikes!

Nearby, the Howard Marsh Metropark played host to a few special birds, like the nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds that flew about, giving clear, unobstructed views to the delight of many excited

birdwatchers and photographers. Dozens of Bobolink roamed the grounds, along with Horned Larks which made nests in patches of clover in the grassy fields between the parking areas.

The Biggest Week in Birding was more than that; it was THE BEST Week in Birding for this happy bird watcher. *Diane Westbrook*.

CECIL COUNTY

When I was around 10 years old, I found a book about endangered species of North America lying on the floor in my bedroom. I shared my bedroom with my older brother Brian, he was 8 years older than me, and we had very little in common at that time in our lives except for leaving stuff all over the place. The book was called Vanishing Wildlife of North America.

I looked through the book many times over the years (Brian didn't seem to care that I confiscated his book from him), always in hopes that one day I would see some of the species that were in the book. The book had many awesome photos of very rare or even extinct species. One of the birds that was shown in the book was a Kirtland's Warbler. The bright yellow color of the front and underneath of the bird really caught my eye as did the contrasting slate gray of the back and wings. I wanted to see one! Over the years and I was able to do more research on Kirtland's Warblers. I learned about the Jack Pines in Michigan (the preferred habitat of the Kirtland's Warbler) and how these specific pine areas had to be managed, all to keep one bird species from going extinct.

Fast forward 40 years later. I was sitting at my desk at work this past winter looking through ebird (of course I was on my lunch break). Sometimes I like to look through the species maps and see where birds are occurring that I haven't seen before. Then it popped in my head out of the blue, let me see if people are reporting Kirtland's Warblers on here. So I put it in and Central to Northern Michigan was all lit up in purple with sightings. There were loads of reports from last spring and early summer. That is it; I am going to go to Michigan this coming summer! I presented the idea to my girlfriend, Colleen, who is a school teacher. She hadn't ever visited Michigan either, so now we had a destination this summer after school let out.

We had planned out several stops on the way out and on the way back from Michigan but I knew once I was in the state, my mind would be on my long awaited view of a Kirtland's.

It was around 2 PM when we arrived for our first attempt (not the best time of day for singing Warblers). The dirt road we were on quickly narrowed down to one lane with dry sand filling in the worn tire ruts. This isn't the greatest situation for my 2013 Honda Civic. Driving down the road, the landscape opened up from the large dense northern pine forest to an open area with young growth of mixed Jack Pine, Sweet Gum, Oaks and such. This is looking good I said to Colleen.

With the radio off, the air controls off and all 4 windows down, we slowly crept down the sandy path hoping to hear the warbler song we had listened to many times over. I arrived at the exact

pin location that was recommended to me to check. To this point I hadn't heard a Kirtland's. The birds were in this spot last year. So, we sat in silence for a few minutes but then I heard a very distant warbled chatter. I heard it again, so I got out of the car. It was clearer! "Kirtland's!" I yelled to Colleen. We could hear it out over the ridge but very distant. We walked back down the road and then up the road. The only location we were able to hear it was right at the car. I had such mixed emotions. I hear it, so that is great but I want to see it of course. The temptation to walk into the area is really strong but the site is posted all around, "ground nesting birds, Keep Out", so that option was out.

We drove around the site for some time, the GPS took us off roading where we remained stuck for 2 hours but I managed to finally dig us out. "We will just have to try it again in the morning." After that ordeal, I needed a shower and a drink ASAP.

So the next morning we woke up to downpours and intermittent rain showers. We drove back out to the site, as soon as the landscape opened up to the jack pine area, we rolled the windows down and there it was; A Kirtland's Warbler singing really close. I stopped the car immediately and got out. The Kirtland's was singing within 30 feet of the road. We could see the movement from it. So we stepped off the road onto the sandy shoulder and then I pishhed a couple times really gently. Then, woosshh, I just got dive-bombed by a Kirtland's Warbler! It landed 5 feet from us. We were too close for a photo! We stood there frozen solid, silent, mouths dropped open and getting soaked from the rain but the bird moved around us like it didn't care we were there. It was gleaning over the leaves, picking off caterpillars, singing and then it finally started working itself far enough away where my camera could focus on it. This was what we had hoped for. We were able to take in its behavior, its song, the beauty of this rare species. My heart was so happy. An endangered bird that I saw in a book over 40 years was now perched on a branch 15 feet away from me singing.

This memory will be one of my most cherished birding memories of my life. Many other wonderful things happened on our journeys through Michigan. All states have their issues, including Michigan but this certainly is a state that I will visit again. It has amazing scenery that I didn't expect, super nice people and it is so clean! I highly recommend that you experience what "Pure Michigan" means for yourself. *Sean McCandless*

The Cecil Bird Club has an advocate in the *Friends of Cecil County Parks and Recreation* group. Club President Maryanne Dolan single handedly initiated a write in campaign to encourage the local county commissioners to continue to support the newly opened Brantwood Park financially when it comes time to pass the local budget. Funding exists for the next four years to further develop the park and maintain important bird habitat. As a friend of the park Maryanne attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on May 6th. She has taken the bull by the horns so to speak to keep club members informed about local grass root environmental issues. We continue to applaud and support her diligence in this endeavor. Thank you Maryanne.

As we are moving deeper into Spring, migration is well under way as is nesting of the local breeders. Years long monitoring of nest boxes in Cecil County is continuing at both Turkey Point in Elk Neck State Park and at the Great Beginning, Woodlawn Reserve near Port Deposit. Again we find Maryanne Dolan's name associated with important projects as she keeps an eye on the boxes at Turkey Point. Ken Drier continues to monitor the Woodlawn boxes as he has for about seven years now. *Ken Drier*

Maryanne Dolan (Cecil) and *Pat Valdata* (Tri-County) went to Ohio during the second week in May to experience Magee Marsh at the peak of warbler migration. Maryanne had been there several times, but this was Pat's first trip. She'd heard the hype about what an amazing place Magee Marsh was, and it didn't disappoint, even though the weather was chilly and overcast most days.

The first bird they saw was a lifer: Kirtland's Warbler! The bird was easily found by the crowd in front of it along the Lake Erie beach. It showed well that whole afternoon to the delight of everyone who saw it. Over the next four days, between them they saw 28 species of warblers; untold numbers of Warbling Vireos, Gray Catbirds, and Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers; and numerous other birds, including Swainson's Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Great Egret, Trumpeter Swan, ducks and shorebirds: a total of 94 species. The number of individual birds was mind-boggling. One small tree, for example, held three male Bay-breasted Warblers, a male and female Cape May Warbler, two male and one female Chestnut-sided Warblers, two male Black-throated Green Warblers, and one of the ubiquitous Yellow Warblers, all close enough that binoculars were unnecessary. No "warbler neck"!

In addition to Magee Marsh proper, they toured the adjacent Ottawa NWR, Metzger Marsh, and Howard Marsh, the latter a new county park that hosted a Yellow-headed Blackbird and Wilson's Phalarope (not seen by Maryanne or Pat, unfortunately). *Pat Valdata*

HARFORD COUNTY

Colombia, the 4th largest country in SA, is second only to Brazil in number of plant and animal species. But it holds the world's top spot for bird diversity-1900 species. In early June, at the beginning of the rainy season, Peter Hanan (Anne Arundel) and I, Jean Wheeler (Harford) traveled to a small area in this bird rich country on a *Mark Pretti Nature Tour for Birding and Natural History in Northern Colombia*. The trip commenced in Barranquilla, a thriving metropolis of 2 million, which we had never heard of before! The first day we birded several areas nearby. Chestnut-winged Chachalaca (endemic), Brown-throated Parakeets and Russet-throated Puffbird started the morning. A short drive brought us to a dirt road along Rio Magdalena. We not only spotted many birds, but we saw the poverty of the people in contrast to the urban center.

Next we headed toward Minca, stopping a couple of times to search coastal ponds for shorebirds. Our van transportation

ended at Santa Marta. The 10 of us split up into 3 older model, well-maintained Toyota Land Cruisers, and the ADVENTURE began as we ascended up the road to Minca. The mostly paved road ascended to about 2300 feet and the Hotel Minca which had been a cloister in the 1800's. The lodge was perched on a mountain side overlooking several forested ranges. Hummingbird feeders were busy with mainly 5 species including Rufous-tailed, Steely-vented Hummingbird, White-vented Plumeleteer, and Black-throated Mango. We spent 2 nights here, birding each morning and one afternoon, "up the road". Black-headed Tanager, Whooping Motmot, and Golden-winged Sparrow were a few highlights.

After lunch on the 3rd day, we began what I refer to as "off-roading on a road"! Torrential rains commenced almost as soon as we began the ascent. It was dark as night in the forest and that was probably a good thing as we couldn't see the dramatic drops to the valley below. Paving was intermittent to nonexistent, and the rain was making for slip-sliding. They told us the distance from Minca to El Dorado Lodge was about 20 kilometers, but it was going to take 3 or more hours. Ruts and rocks were HUGE, but our careful drivers slowly but surely drove upward. With my driver, Jesus, I knew when things were about to get serious, - he removed his earbuds and put on his seatbelt! After 3-hours the sun shone and we stopped to bird a picturesque area called "Schoolhouse Corner". We started racking up new higher elevation species and then we made the final ascent up the rugged road to our lodge at 6700 ft.elevation. This was home for 4 nights. The view from the lodge and rooms was breathtaking. Temperatures were 50's at night to 70's during the day. Feeders sported 8-9 hummers at once! Have you ever seen Violetears raise their "ears" in aggression? What a sight! From the grounds we spotted a pair of White-tipped Quetzal. Each day we went up the road morning and afternoon. The best was the early morning drive up to the Lorenzo Ridge at 8700 feet. We looked across several ridges to snow-capped mountains and the highest point in Colombia 18,200 feet. We were at the beginning of the Andes! We started spotting endemics like the Santa Marta Mountain Tanager immediately. But the highlight was 2 rare Santa Marta Parakeets perching not 6 feet from us, posing for photos!! In all of Mark's trips, he had never seen them be this close and still.

What goes up must come down and we descended the "rough road" but in glorious sunshine. We made several stops for some special species like the Santa Marta Blossomcrown. This hummer sports a red crown that looks like a flower! We also had good views of the skulking Rusty-breasted Antpitta.

In Santa Marta we returned to the van and headed down to the Caribbean and our next lodge Playa La Roca and the Guajira Peninsula for 2 nights. The thatched roofed cabanas were spacious, but rustic. Peter even had 2 bats take a tour of his room! The Caribbean was brown and rough. Not that any of us were up to swimming. Birds were the objective and we saw many more on our AM and PM excursions. Also we saw a troop of Red-Howler Monkeys. As we drove along the road in this area once again we were struck by the areas of poverty especially in villages of ethnic

Colombians. Other small towns were a bit more prosperous appearing. We remarked on the "drive thru coffee" along the road in the morning. Vehicles stopped in the middle of the road in a town and someone came over with a pitcher of coffee, tea or juice. Payment was made and off they went. No Starbucks here.

For the trip I had 221 birds seen and at least 70 were life birds. Colombia is making strides in the eco-tourism trade. The lodges were more rustic and quaint than say Ecuador and Peru, but food was good, the people were friendly and the scenery amazing. I'm considering Mark's Southern Colombia trip next year. *Jean Wheeler*

Five members of the Harford Bird Club attended the first American Birding Association Adult Birding Camp held May 23-27 in West Virginia. Those attending were *Susan and Bob Hood, Deb and Don Stewart* and myself, *Diane Jones*. The camp was held at the Opossum Creek Retreat a few miles from the impressive New River Gorge Bridge. Our expert leaders were Jeff and Liz Gordon from ABA as well as Geoff Heater, the owner of Opossum Creek. We had a wonderful time, great birds, great food and great companionship. There were 18 participants from all over the country. Opossum Creek is a small resort with cabins tucked into the woods and a small lodge. It was so pleasant to wake up each morning to the dawn chorus right outside our cabin. Our meals were served in the lodge and were delicious. We went by school bus each day to a variety of spring migration hotspots. That area of West Virginia is great for warblers, especially Cerulean of which we had fabulous looks, including parents feeding young at the nest. One day we spent time at a 14,000-acre Boy Scout camp where the National Jamboree is now held. They had a tower that we climbed up and were treated to very close, eye-level views of Ceruleans. We were lucky to go birding with Katie Fallon, a local author who has written the book "Cerulean Blues" about the plight of Cerulean Warblers. She is a delightful young woman who also volunteers at a bird rehab facility. One evening she brought two of the birds from the rehab facility, a Peregrine Falcon and a Screech Owl for us to meet. We saw lots of other warblers including Golden-winged, Swainson's, Worm-eating, Kentucky, Hooded, Blackburnian, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided and other birds as well but the Ceruleans were definitely the highlight for me. It was a delightful experience and they plan on holding it again next year which I was very happy to hear. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to see lots of good warblers while being well taken care of and enjoying the company of wonderful people. Here is a link to sign up for next year's camp:

<https://www.aba.org/store/adult-birding-camp-west-virginia/>.
Diane Jones

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Don Messersmith wrote he had two days of excellent birding in Ohio with Bill Murphy and friends at Magee Marsh (Crane Creek) in May. He saw 18 species of warblers. "The highlight was Kenn Kaufman, the nature books author, asking if he could have his picture taken with me, because of my being a pioneer in overseas birding."

Bruce Beehler sent the following: "As stage one of my new birding adventure, in late April I headed to the Lower Rio Grande Valley to await the arrival of northbound Hudsonian Godwits. Using eBird, I followed the godwits north through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Manitoba, ending my trip at Churchill, where the species was establishing breeding territories in the fen southwest of town. I was in Churchill at the very end of May, when it seemed more like winter than spring--with daily snow showers, remnant snow drifts, and both the Churchill River and Hudson Bay still icebound. Those interested in getting a sense of what I saw (including lots of godwit images) can re-visit my twice-weekly blogs of the trip at: <https://birdsandnaturenorthamerica.blogspot.com> (please join!). For stage two I will be back on the road in early August as the godwits begin staging in James Bay for their travels south to Chile. Stage three will commence in June 2020 and will take me to Alaska as well as the Northwest Territories of Canada, to the two other breeding grounds of Hudsonian Godwit."

Marta Wagner wrote that in early June, after attending a family wedding in Ann Arbor, Michigan, she ventured farther north to see a Kirtland's warbler on its breeding ground. "Based in a comfortable motel in Greyling, Michigan, I joined a tour led by a summer intern at nearby Hartwick Pines State Park. The tour, which cost \$10 and required no preregistration, started at 7am in the park visitor center. The intern provided information about the status of Kirtland's warblers before leading the group to breeding habitat a short drive away. Upon arrival at the site, the group heard several Kirtland's warblers singing, but none was visible at first. The intern led the group along two different paths, noting that the target birds usually show themselves between 9 and 10 am. On schedule, one male appeared quite close to the path and foraged. As the group discussed the satisfying view, the bird reappeared in the path right next to where the group was standing and foraged even closer than it had before. Some members of the group also saw a female and a young male." Marta says she will gladly share more details of her trip with anyone interested in trying next spring.

In April, *Gail Mackiernan* and *Barry Cooper* joined two friends from England for two weeks in Panama. "They took advantage of so-called "Green Season" rates, as this was supposed to be the start of the rainy season - but in two weeks there was only one afternoon of rain. This was Gail and Barry's third trip to that country, but reports of breeding Crested and Harpy Eagles provided a great reason for another visit! The group spent about five days at the famous Canopy Tower near the Panama Canal and six days at the Canopy Camp in the far-eastern province of Darién. Gail writes, "The Canopy Tower is a former U.S. military facility that has been converted into a unique and comfortable lodge. Located in Soberanía National Park, on the top of Semaphore Hill, about an hour's drive from Tocumen Airport in Panama City, and very close to the Panama Canal. The top of the tower provides an amazing view over the forest and into the canopy of the surrounding trees. It is also an excellent spot for observing diurnal hawk migration as well as canopy

species. Canopy Camp is located in the extreme east of Panama in the Darién Province, bordering Colombia. It's home to the vast wilderness commonly called the "Darién Gap," a roadless swathe of forest that is the "missing link" in the Pan-American Highway. Protected areas include Darién National Park, encompassing more than 500,000 hectares with serrated peaks, coastal lagoons and mangrove swamps. Staying at the Camp is a "glamping" experience, with upscale floored tents, en suite facilities and wine at dinner!

"The guides at both lodges are superb, with an unsurpassed knowledge of the area and an incredible ability to find birds! In two weeks we four tallied about 300 species of birds, as well as a number of interesting mammals, including cute Sloths, noisy Howler Monkeys - the jungle alarm clock - and a new one on us, the Olingo (an arboreal Raccoon relative). Bird highlights were many, topped perhaps by smashing views of a Harpy Eagle at its nest, feeding a large chick, as well as a totally unexpected encounter with a huge Crested Eagle perched along a remote road, unconcerned with the awestruck birders. Other great birds included close views of a confiding Black-crowned Antpitta, the enigmatic Sapayoa (in its own family, most closely related to the Broadbills of Asia), Ocellated and Bare-crowned Antbirds and thousands of Mississippi Kites winging their way north over the forest." *Chris Wright*

TALBOT COUNTY

Jan Reese and *Jeff Effinger* organized a work day at MOS Mills Creek Sanctuary. Nine people turned out on a sunny, 70 degree day to mark and clear trails, to clean the leaves and debris from the shelter. Including Jeff Effinger, other workers were Betty and Fred Maki, *Peter and Linda Yungbluth*, *Ron Ketter*, *Wayne Bell*, *Terry Allen*, and *JC Lowery*. *Bettye Maki*

Talbot Bird Club President, *Bettye Maki* and member *Susan Henyon* visited the 800 acre TRI-STATE BIRD RESCUE & RESEARCH Center. *Chris Chapdelaine* gave them a tour of the facilities which includes a room for nesting bird care, a large raptor aviary where raptors can exercise their wings and even turn corners in flight. Other buildings house many varieties of birds receiving medical attention. Operating under state and federal permits their wild bird clinic admits nearly 3,000 patients every year. Tri-State is ready to respond to disasters of any size such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to small local incidents. *Bettye Maki*

TRI-COUNTY

Barbara Dolan visited Uganda on a Rockjumper Birding Tour from May 29-June 10. Due to the super-human effort of the three men who pushed and pulled her banana boat through the Mabamba Swamp, she was fortunate to see the Shoebill. And, thanks to the excellent birding skills of the local guide Kalema Livingstone, she saw two Green-breasted Pitta in Kibale National Park. Watching a gorilla family in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park was a memorable experience. Memorable not so much as in seeing a family of sleeping gorillas, but because of

the very strenuous, porter-assisted trek along the steep forested mountain slopes and the many stinging ants that my very attentive porter was continually picking off her clothes. And no, he was not successful in removing all of them! The people, culture, birds, mammals and scenery in this beautiful country will always be fondly remembered. *Barbara Dolan*

This past summer, Tri-County's membership declined by six members as three couples, all long term and active members, moved to other locations. *Jean and Larry Fry* moved in May to Fayetteville, PA to be closer to family. Since joining our club when they moved to Worcester County, the Frys have been active club members, leading field trips to Chincoteague, helping organize our annual dinner meeting and keeping us informed of environmental issues. Jean served as the club's Treasurer and sent reminder e-mails to members for nine years. *Pete and Cele Zerhusen* also joined our club when they moved from the western shore to Worcester County. They also helped with our dinner meetings and were regular attendees at meeting and field trips. Pete and Cele are moving to Centerville in Queen Anne's County. And *Doug and Sally Ruby* are heading to Virginia to be closer to children and grandchildren. They have both been very active in the club; Doug has been a stalwart on our field trips and recently presented a program about their Big Year. Sally served as club's treasurer this past year. We thank them all for their service to the club and wish them all the best in their new locations and new adventures. We'll miss them all! *Ellen Lawler*

The 2019 Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Count and Announcing Dates for 2020

In 2019 81 species (+14 other taxa) comprising 11,074 individuals were tallied by 44 total parties. 117 miles were covered. Party hours totaled 127.17 with party sizes of 1 [26 parties], 2 [11 parties], 3 [4 parties], 5 [2 parties], and 12 [1 party], involving 63 individuals. No "stationary" counts were submitted in 2019. Overall C & O Towpath coverage was 63% with county coverage as follows: DC - 90%; Montgomery - 97%; Frederick - 56%; Washington - 54%; Allegany - 52%. The coverage/participation was a marked increase from the 2018 count, the first count following a gap year [2017] after the ending of the DC Audubon Society's [DCAS] involvement as count steward. In 2018 64 species (+3 other taxa) comprising 3445 individuals were tallied by 17 total parties involving 30 individuals who covered 24.5 "traveling" miles with one stationary counter...[<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44128936>]. Full results for 2019 will be published in Maryland Birdlife. The count for 2020 will extend from 25 JAN through 2 FEB.

Maryland Fall Count 2019

The annual Fall Seasonal Bird Count sponsored by MOS will be held on the third weekend of September in the Maryland-DC area. The MOS Board has left the choice of whether the count will be on Saturday September 21 or Sunday September 22 to local chapters and coordinators. In areas without an identified coordinator, individual parties submit their results directly to the statewide coordinator for inclusion.

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level. Every pair of eyes helps, and it can be a great learning experience and a lot of fun. The results of the count will appear in an article in the Spring 2020 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. A new checklist compilation form (AOU Supplement Order 59) is available on the MOS website at the following link: <https://bit.ly/30wn4KS>

The list includes the species one could expect to find in Maryland during this season. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details.

The fall counts, dates, and compilers (that were confirmed by the calendar deadline) are listed in the MOS calendar. A list of the county coordinators can also be accessed on the MOS website. Anyone who has organized a count that is not included, or who is interested in volunteering as a coordinator for another county currently without a coordinator, is encouraged to contact the state coordinator.

Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county/ chapter coordinator is October 1, 2019. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by October 15.

If you don't have web access or you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, contact the state-wide Fall Count Coordinator directly. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites, field trips) who count in areas without a coordinator, but have data for the count dates, are asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered, participants, and coverage statistics directly to the state Fall Count Coordinator by October 15.

Join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat, MOS State-wide Fall Count Coordinator
stirrbird@outlook.com

56 Years of Care

Many things have changed since MOS purchased Carey Run Sanctuary in 1962. Some fields have given way to mature woodlands and different species of breeding birds have come and gone. One person's presence, however, has remained constant. Anyone who has visited the Sanctuary knows Charlotte Folk. Overnight visitors were welcomed by Charlotte shortly after they arrived. Guests who had a question about turning on the electricity or working the wood stove found Charlotte's phone number hanging in the kitchen. Now, after decades of taking care of human and animal guests alike, she's handing off the torch.

After her retirement as caretaker, Charlotte and I had a Q&A session. It would be impossible for one article to fully capture the work she did but hopefully the following will give you some idea.

DN: For how long were you caretaker?

CF: I have been involved with the sanctuary since its beginning. The MOS committee contacted our then-president of the bird club to look around our area for property and I was with the group checking on what was available. We soon learned of this farm of 62 acres with a house and a barn and MOS felt the price was reasonable.

DN: When did you first visit Carey Run?

CF: I went with the group that visited and walked over the fields and woods with the MOS to determine if this was what they were looking for.

DN: What were some projects with which you were involved?

CF: The biggest project was when the shower and men's and ladies' restrooms were added just off the back porch. As you know that was a hit compared to the outdoor toilet.

DN: What day-to-day tasks did you oversee?

CF: I [went] up to check on the guests that made reservations, if everything is working and if they need anything, as well as to meet them. I also checked on the man that mows our fields, and the work weekend which is a real help to get things clean and ready to open for the season. It used to be my husband, daughter and I doing the cleaning in the spring.

DN: What are some of your favorite memories from your time at the Sanctuary?

CF: Two girls rode horses through the property and broke the kitchen window. They crawled in and ate the candy that was in a dish on the coffee table. The joke was on them as it had been there all winter.

Another time I discovered some college students [on the property]. Their Ornithology teacher was a member of the bird club and [brought] her class to the Sanctuary to study the birds. One boy memorized the gate and house combination. They were out by the pond with a keg of beer. I told my husband, Dan. He called the State Police and they met him at the Sanctuary and ran them out of there.

DN: What are your hopes for Carey Run moving forward?

CF: I hope the sanctuary continues to serve the MOS members with the purpose it was purchased for. That is to be a place they can come to enjoy the peace and quiet, the grounds, the bluebirds, all the other birds and warblers as well as the habitat. It has been 56 years that I have enjoyed being the caretaker and though I am stepping down I will keep track of what is happening there. I feel Melissa Hensel will do a good job in the future of the sanctuary.

Dominic Nucifora

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Reach members interested in your bird-related services by placing an announcement in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. For more information contact the Editor:

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Any member is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Do you have a perspective that you would like to share with the birding community? We would like to hear from you. Email the editor at: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org.

M E M B E R P H O T O S



Left: Santa Marta Parakeet. Image Credit: Peter Hanan.

Below: A pair of Purple Martins (male on the left) noisily claim ownership of some real estate at a martin house erected by National Institutes of Health grounds staff at a small pond just outside the NIH campus in Bethesda. Image Credit: D.H. Michael Bowen.



M E M B E R P H O T O S



Left: Wire-tailed Manakin.
Image Credit: George Jett.



Right: Crested Eagle. Image Credit: Gail Mackiernan. Read more about this bird in Chapter Chatter.



Left: Common Tern with
Chick, Poplar Island.
Image Credit: Kurt Schwarz.

The Art of Mentoring

When I earned my BS degree almost 50 years ago from a large state university, I was only one of two females graduating from the school of business. Things have changed a lot since then, but I recently read that at current rates, business leadership in the US will not be gender equal until the year 2073!

That started me thinking about women in science. The recent MOS conference had many highlights, but I was especially intrigued by the poster presentations. Or to be more accurate, the presenters themselves. I talked to several of the female students and was struck by their intelligence and commitment to careers in science.

The three young women I spoke with were all from St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) and all had the same biology professor and research advisor – Dr. Jessica Malisch. As they shared their future plans, I thought St. Mary's and their professor must be doing something right.

But first a little background. In the biological sciences, there is good gender parity at the BS, Masters, and PhD level. However, things change radically after that. A study published July, 15, 2014 in *Nature*, found that women accounted for just 18% of full professors in the biological sciences, despite making up more than half of the PhD candidates in the field.

The study suggests that the leaky pipeline—a metaphor wherein women (water) follow a career path (a pipeline) but discontinue these career paths due to roadblocks (e.g., sexism, etc.) thus creating a profession with less women leaders—can be blamed for most of this inequity. Leading male researchers employ significantly fewer females than males and labs run by elite male principal investigators, or PIs, (the person holding the research grant) train even fewer females. And because a disproportionate number of assistant professors are selected from elite labs, a much smaller percentage of female candidates who want to teach at the college/university level make that next critical career step.

The authors, Jason Shetzer and Joan Smith, suggest that unconscious bias that undervalues female candidates plays a part in the gender disparity in research labs. Self-selection away from elite labs by female candidates may be another factor. Female students often exhibit “imposter syndrome”, that is, doubting their own achievements despite their own successes, after repeatedly getting the message that they are not quite good enough.

For this article, I interviewed four impressive female biology students and one remarkable assistant professor and asked about their own experiences and impressions on female parity in research and academia. Most experienced some level of subtle sexism or favoritism towards males in school or work

but noted that schools and many male professors are finally recognizing there is a problem and are actively working on correcting it.

Their stories confirmed the importance of mentoring to women throughout their academic lives and scientific careers.

Lauren Hall's four years at SMCM only reinforced her passion for animals and desire to become a veterinarian. Her high school AP biology class set her on the path to a major in biology. She loves the beauty and complexity of the natural world and how “there is an answer to everything.” In her junior year, she had Dr. Malisch for a class and she talked about her research career. Lauren was so impressed, that she chose to do a directed research project with her: “Validation of Visual Scoring of Fat Pads and Correlation with Whole Body Fat Composition in European Starlings.” Lauren is beginning veterinary school at Virginia Tech this fall, with plans to specialize in orthopedic surgery.

Melanie Kimball, another recent SMCM graduate, presented a research poster at the MOS conference on “Acute Stress and Glucose Mobilization in Mountain Dark-eyed Juncos.” She feels that her positive experience and success at St Mary's are due to having a female scientist (Dr. Malisch), as her primary mentor who guided her throughout her undergraduate research, gave her opportunities to do field research and be a teaching assistant. These experiences made Melanie a strong candidate for the PhD programs of her choosing. She applied to three programs, all labs with female PIs, and she received offers from all three. Melanie is starting a PhD program in the fall at Louisiana State University, focusing on avian neuroendocrinology.

Livia Sculler is also a recent St. Mary's graduate and presented a research poster on “The Effects of Migration Distance on Body Condition and Response to Physiological Stressors in White-throated Sparrows.” Her love of science was fostered in high school by two outstanding female teachers who firmly believed in “girl power.” At SMCM, she was mentored by women professors who encouraged her interest in genetics. She loved her work as a teaching assistant and the experience steered her towards research. Under Dr. Malisch's direction, Livia worked on her research project for two years, reviewing the literature on her topic in her junior year and completing field work her senior year. This August, Livia is starting a PhD program at Texas A&M University in genetics.

Our last scientist, Claire Nemes, is well on her way to completing her PhD program at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Appalachian Laboratory in Frostburg. You may remember her excellent article in the last *Yellowthroat* on her field work in Puerto Rico studying the

impact of free-roaming cats on bird populations. As an undergraduate, she was inspired by accomplished female professors and by the women naturalists at the Brookside Nature Center in Wheaton where she worked. Claire has had fantastic mentors and advisors, both men and women, but believes having a female mentor is extremely important. Someone who has already navigated science and academia as a female can provide valuable insights, such as dealing with the risks a woman may encounter doing field work. After completing her PhD, Claire plans to do research at a non-profit with a conservation focus.

My conversation with Dr. Jessica Malisch underscored what it takes to be a good mentor. She has been inspiring students at St. Mary's College for three years. Mentoring research students is the favorite part of her job and she stressed that it is valued at SMCM and counted as part of the teaching load. In addition to directing student research projects, she encourages networking, helps students apply for research funds and assists them in writing effective CVs. In college, she was inspired by two female guest speakers who discussed their scientific research. Dr. Malisch realized then that she wanted to write research papers, not just read them! Dr. Malisch was recently awarded a fellowship by the American Association of University Women which she plans to use to support her ongoing research, develop a new biochemical lab technique and apply for additional funding to maintain an active undergraduate driven research laboratory.

While talking to these five female scientists I noted many common themes. All were interested in nature and/or science at an early age and had supportive parents who encouraged their interests. They could all point to important female mentors in high school, work and college who supported their goals and provided positive examples of women in science. Several of them talked about the importance of sports in their lives, and what it taught them about leadership, responsibility, perseverance and the rewards of hard work. All emphasized the importance of networking and the value of the internet in leveling the gender playing field.

But the most important theme I heard time and again, is that female scientists are supporting, encouraging and helping other women succeed. Claire stressed that there is an incredible community of female scientists out there supporting women and non-binary individuals. And Melanie summed it up beautifully when she told me: "Women are helping women in science progress. Eventually, that will lead to gender parity."

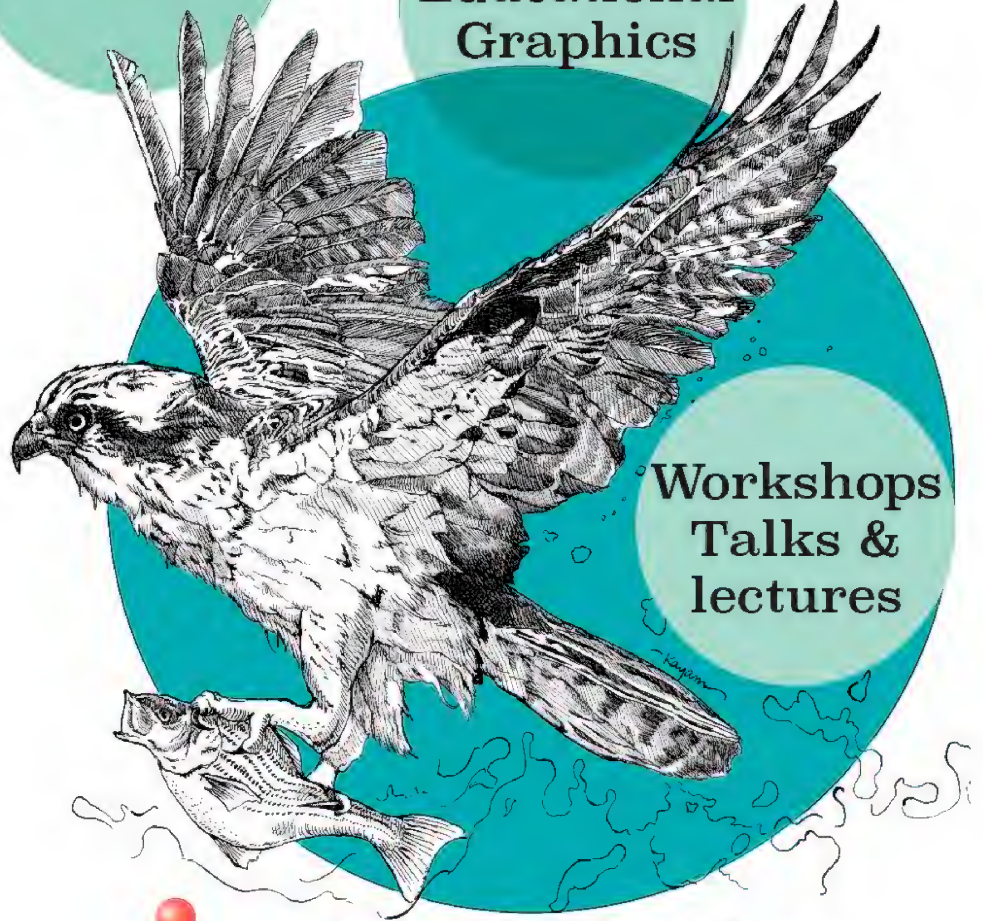
Literature Referenced: Sheltzer and Smith. 2014: <https://bit.ly/2zooU4k>.

Kathy Brown, Copy Editor

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CALENDAR

9/1/19	7 - 11 AM	Birding on Black Walnut Point, Tilghman Island	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leaders Jan Reese (410-745-2875) and/or Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016). Description: Traditional spot for migrant passerines. Meet at the north end of the Black Walnut Point parking lot. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
9/1/19	10:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com. Description: Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior. Cancelled if raining or overcast. No facilities.
9/2/19	8 - 11 AM	Bird Banding at Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club. Contact Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978 or marksjohnson2@gmail.com if more information is desired. Description: Long time bird bander and accomplished birder and naturalist, Dr. Mark Johnson, and his able crew of volunteers will demonstrate banding and scientific data collection with actual in-hand birds. Meet at the Vangrin Bird Banding Station.
9/3/19	8 - 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader John Landers, 410-292-9549 or dado1bw@aol.com. Description: Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of migration. Beginning birders welcome.
9/4/19	8 AM - 12 PM	First Wednesday at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Meet outside of park front gates, and park at lot on left hand side.
9/5/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader John Harris, jaybee.harris@gmail.com or 843-592-4051. Description: Moderate walking through wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Prepare for wet grass and mud on the trails. No facilities. Meet at the Clegg Meadow off Southwind Circle.
9/5/19	3 - 5 PM	Birding at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
9/5/19	7 - 8:30 PM	Swift Watch in Downtown Salisbury	Host: Tri-County Bird Club. Contact Nancy Roisum, nroisum@gmail.com or 410-845-8347. Description: Meet in front of the Wicomico County Courthouse, fifteen minutes before sunset, to watch swifts enter a roosting site through chimney at the courthouse.
9/5/19	Time TBA	Birding at Wheaton Regional Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For more information about meeting time and place and for reservations email leaders Woody & Rae Dubois, dengue1@verizon.net. Description: Join us to look for migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers. Reservations required. Limit 10.
9/6-7/19	All day	Carey Run Work Weekend	Host: MOS Sanctuary Committee. Contact Dominic Nucifora at d.nucifora@yahoo.com. Description: We will make repairs to the house and trails at Carey Run Sanctuary. Projects include: Blazing trails, painting window trim, removing invasives along the trails, etc.
9/6/19	8 - 11 AM	Bird Walk, Friends Delight at Sang Run	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Bird walk will be led by Park Ranger. Meet at the Youghioheny boat launch parking lot.
9/7/19	7 AM - 12 PM	Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Greg Kearns and Karen Fairweather. For more information, contact Marta Wagner, wagmara@yahoo.com. Description: Three-hour pontoon boat trip on the Patuxent followed by trail walk. Meet at park entrance gate. \$7 per person for park program. Boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. Registrations required (20-person limit). Register online at ANShome.org/adults.
9/7/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Paddling at Jean Roberts Park	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders are Colleen Webster (410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu) and Sue Procell (443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com). Description: An early morning paddle during a beautiful time of the year. The actual course will be determined by wind, current strength and what birds are being seen and where.
9/7/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed.
9/7-8/19	All day	Field Trip, Dolly Sods, WV	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Carol McDaniel at mcdanieljandc@gmail.com. Description: Overnight trip to the Dolly Sods Bird Banding Station and Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge Boardwalk in Davis WV, RSVP required.
9/8/19	7 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Danny Poet (401-827-8651). Description: Expect to see shorebirds, migrant passerines and usually a surprise or two. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
9/8/19	7:30 - 10:30 AM	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Join us for the monthly walk along paved paths as well as grass and dirt paths through varied habitat looking for resident birds, including early migrants. Meet at top parking lot past the sports fields.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: <https://mdbirds.org/calendar/>.

BIRDING



9/8/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Rockburn Branch Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leaders Karen and Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731 or KJHeff122@gmail.com. Description: Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. Meet in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse.
9/8/19	9 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
9/10/19	8 - 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Gene Ricks, 410-592-4382 or gricks@verizon.net. Description: Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome.
9/10-12/19	All day	Cape May Birding Trip	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Vince DeSanctis (410-886-2009). Description: Join us on an overnight trip to Cape May or come for the day. Lewes Ferry, Higbee Beach, Nummy Island, Brigantine. Arrive back in Easton about 6 PM 9/12.
9/11/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Birding Mt. Pleasant Farm	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Warren Cummings, wcummings9@gmail.com or 410-925-1809. Description: Easy walking through the fields. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available.
9/11/19	8:30 AM - 12 PM	Jug Bay Pontoon Trip with Greg Kearns	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: 3-hour tour of Jug Bay looking for Sora and other rails. Cost is \$8 per person and reservations are necessary as there is limited participation. Meet at Jackson boat ramp.
9/13/19	8 - 11 AM	Bird Walk, Friends Delight at Sang Run	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Bird walk will be led by Park Ranger. Meet at the Youghioheny boat launch parking lot.
9/13/19	All Day	Caroline's Big Sit	Host: Caroline County Bird Club. Description: Location: TBA. Details will be listed on our Facebook page and website.
9/14/19		Birding at Gambrill State Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690, for meeting time and location. Description: Search for migrating fall warblers. Easy walking on mostly paved paths.
9/14/19	8 - 11 AM	Bird Walk, Yougiogheny Reservoir	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Bird walk to look for migrating shore birds and warblers. Muddy conditions - waterproof boots recommended.
9/14/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Mariner Park Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Debbie & Lou Taylor, debrataylor11@gmail.com or 410-852-9807. Description: Mariner Point Park in Harford County is a great place for beginner birders and also offers many photo ops. Spot-a-Pot and possibly flush toilets.
9/14/19	8 AM - 3 PM	Trip to Turkey Point/Elk Neck	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: The geography of the Elk Neck peninsula concentrates migrants as they head south. Bring lunch. Meet at Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace, Chestertown at 8 AM.
9/15/19	6:30 AM - 12 PM	Hoopers Island and Meekins Neck Birding	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016). Description: Interesting part of Dorchester. Shorebirds, migrant passerines, gulls, terns, herons, rails and pelicans. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
9/15/19	7 - 10 AM	Rock Creek Park for New Birders	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For reservations and directions contact leader Clive Harris. clivegharris@yahoo.com. Description: The focus will be on identifying migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows but we'll also look closely at more common birds. Meet at the Nature Center. Reservations required.
9/15/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Milford Mill Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Leslie Starr, turnstar@aol.com. Description: One-mile level walk on a mostly shaded, paved path. Looking for fall warblers, thrushes and resident birds.
9/15/19	8:15 AM - 12 PM	Cylburn Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mark Linardi, mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
9/15/19	7 - 7:15 PM	Chimney Swifts at Dusk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafsc@verizon.net, and Alice Nelson, 410-499-0546 or alice.display@verizon.net. Description: The watch will be held at the Bookbindery Chimney in Hampden again this fall! Canceled if raining. Binoculars useful but not necessary. Check the BBC website for any changes: baltimorebirdclub.org or Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/382565775136349/members/

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BIRDING

9/17/19	8 - 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Marty Brazeau, tropicbider56@gmail.com or 443-595-8694. Description: Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of migration. Beginning birders welcome.
9/19/19	9:30 AM - 12 PM	Sky Watch at Mt. Pleasant Farm	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com. Description: This trip will be a hawk watch for migrating raptors. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sun glasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binocular, scope, and camera if you like. Facilities available. Handicap accessible.
9/19/19	3 - 5 PM	Birding at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
9/20/19	8 - 11 AM	Bird Walk, Friends Delight at Sang Run	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Bird walk will be led by Park Ranger. Meet at the Youghioheny boat launch parking lot.
9/21/19	7 - 11 AM	Birding at Swan Creek	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact: Stan Arnold at 410-428-7567 or thrushhost@gmail.com. Description: We will be looking for migrating shore birds as well as many year-around residents. Trail is covered with rocks so sturdy waterproof footwear is recommended and scopes are helpful.
9/21/19	7 AM - 12 PM	Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Please email dterry12@verizon.net if you wish to join the trip. Include your name, phone number and email address in case the trip needs to be canceled. Description: Three-hour pontoon boat trip on the Patuxent followed by trail walk. Bring fee of \$7 per person for park program. Boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. RSVP required.
9/21/19	7 AM - 12 PM	Trip to Patuxent River Park	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Please email cjhome@wildblue.net if you wish to join the trip. Description: Pontoon boat trip with primary focus will be Soras. Bring fee of \$7 per person for Park program. Boat trip can be cool and damp.
9/21/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Ladew Gardens Birds and Blooms Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Rachel Ortt, harfordbirdclubedu@gmail.com. Description: Look for resident bird life and other fall visitors and inhabitants of the gardens. Pre-registration is preferred. Meet in the main parking lot. Gates will close behind us so please be prompt.
9/21/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile east of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
9/21/19	8 - 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. Meet at 3001 East Drive to start the walk.
9/21/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side.
9/21/19	9 - 11 AM	Monarch Butterfly Tagging	Host: Audubon Society of Central Maryland. Description: Monarch butterfly tagging.
9/21/19	10 AM - 6 PM	Appalachian Festival	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Raquel Kettermann at raquelkettermann@verizon.net. Description: Bird club members will staff a table and share info on our organization and bird watching in Western MD during the Appalachian Festival
9/21/19	10 AM - 4 PM	Snickers Gap Hawkwatch	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Joan Boudreau and Bob Abrams. Contact leaders for directions at icepeep@aol.com or 703-282-9495. Description: Peak time for Broad-winged Hawks. Meet at commuter parking lot at VA 7 and VA 601. Registrations required (no limit). Register online at ANShome.org/adults. Bring tripods, scopes, chairs, and pack lunch.
9/22/19	6:30 AM - 12 PM	Adkins Arboretum Birding	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016). Description: Adkins is one of the best fall migration spots on the Eastern Shore. Expect to see late migrating warblers and raptors, possible early arriving sparrows. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
9/22/19	9 - 11 AM	Bird Walk, Frostburg State University Arboretum	Host: Allegany/Garrett/Bird Club. Contact Raquel Kettermann at Raquelkettermann@verizon.net. Description: Hike the trail shaded by a variety of trees to look for local and migrating birds. The trail may be muddy in spots. Meet at the lower end of the football field parking lot.
9/22/19	9 AM - 12 PM	Pennyfield to Violette's Bird Stalk	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. To sign up, contact Leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517. Description: Meet at the Violette's Lock parking lot to carpool to Pennyfield Lock and walk back up the towpath to Violette's Lock. This walk should net an interesting mix of late warblers, other land bird migrants, and probably a few early winter visitors. Limit: 12.

Questions? Contact the calendar editor: calendar@mdbirds.org



9/24/19	8 - 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mike Bradley, michaelbradley023@gmail.com. Description: Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of migration. Beginning birders welcome.
9/25/19	7 - 10:30 AM	Birding at Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Habitats at the station include fallow fields, hedgerows, second growth woodlands, mature woodlots, open water and mud flats. Participants will enjoy viewing birds up close. Limit 12. We plan to stop for lunch on the way home. Meet at Bay 50 at 7 AM.
9/25/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Bird Walk at Patuxent South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGASFor further information, contact the leader, Ken Cohen, at kvulture@aol.com. Description: One of a series of walks to explore the seasonal variations in bird use of the habitats at South Tract. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Meet in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitor Center off Powder Mill Rd.
9/26/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Bird Walk, Eden Mill to Falling Branch	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: Enjoy the beautiful rolling hills, farmland and country scenery as you walk between these two iconic nature sites. The varied habitat promises equally varied bird sightings.
9/28/19	7 AM - 12 PM	Field Trip to Fort Frederick	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Call Bruce or Linda Field at 301-797-6189 to register. Description: Half-day trip to Fort Frederick SP and surrounding area. Depart DMV lot, 18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Drive.
9/28/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Cromwell Valley Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Dave Larkin (410-569-8319; larkin3001@comcast.net) and Al Conrad (410-838-4435; macconrad@yahoo.com). Description: Take a walk through the rich habitat of one of Baltimore County's premiere birding spots for migrant songbirds, waterfowl and raptors. Meet at the P&R at Rt. 152 just north of Rt. 147 near Fallston.
9/28/19	7:30 - 10:30 AM	Birding at Blandair Park North	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com. Description: Walk the trails along scrubland and woods looking for migrants. No facilities, boots recommended. Meet at the S end of Summer Hollow Ln.
9/28/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Croydon Creek Nature Center	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Co-leaders Anne Mytych and Emily Huang. For reservations and more information, contact Anne at amtych@yahoo.com or (240) 506-0236 or Emily at ephuang@verizon.net. Description: Come discover a Montgomery County birding gem. Some moderate hiking. Reservations required (15-person limit).
9/28/19	7:30 AM - 5:30 PM	Frontiers in Ornithology Youth Symposium. Ashland Nature Center, DE	Host: Frontiers in Ornithology. Description: Regional Youth Birding Workshop with Field Trips. Youth must pre-register for this at www.frontiers-in-ornithology.org. Meet youth birders from the Mid Atlantic. Overnight lodging and field trips Sunday also available. Youth must be aged 13 -22 to attend.
9/28/19	8 - 11 AM	Bird Walk, Friends Delight at Sang Run	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Bird walk will be led by Park Ranger. Meet at the Youghiogheny boat launch parking lot. Stay for Fall Festival at the park
9/28/19	8 - 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Explore this urban oasis. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of East Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave.
9/28/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Piney Run Park	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. For more details or to RSVP contact Scott Hodgdon at 443-280-2480 or scotthodgdon@msn.com. Description: Piney Run is one of the hotspots for birding in the county. Meet at the parking lot by the tennis courts.
9/28/19	8:15 AM - 12 PM	Cylburn Walk and Quarry Lake Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Peter Lev, 410-952-9426 or plev@comcast.net. Description: Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Then we'll move to nearby Quarry Lake for a different set of habitats. Beginning birders welcome.
9/29/19	6:30 AM - 12 PM	Spocott Farms Birding	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leaders George Radcliffe (410-228-7670) and Wayne Bell (410-820-6002). Description: Enjoy exploring the Spocott Farm property, famous for its windmill. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
9/29/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Banding Observation in Chestertown	Host: Caroline County. To register and for directions, contact Danny Poet at (410) 827-8651 or birder231@hotmail.com. Description: Bird Banding observation in Chestertown. Jim Gruber, Bander. Great for kids. Adults welcome too.
10/1/19	8 - 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com or 667-231-6453. Description: Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of migration. Beginning birders welcome.
10/2/19	8 AM - 12 PM	First Wednesday at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Meet outside of park front gates, and park at lot on left hand side.

M E M B E R P H O T O S



Left: Amorous Least Terns,
Eastern Neck NWR.

Image Credit: Kurt Schwarz.

Right: Eastern Kingbird.
Image Credit: Anthony
VanSchoor.



Left: Grasshopper Sparrow.
Image Credit: Anthony
VanSchoor.



M E M B E R P H O T O S



Top:
Tricolored
Heron,
Patuxent
Research
Refuge, South
Tract, Cash
Lake. Image
Credit: Kurt
Schwarz.



Left: Harpy
Eagle with
Eaglet. Image
Credit: Gail
Mackiernan.



BIRDING

10/3/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Patuxent Research North Tract	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: The North Tract has lakes, streams, open fields, and wooded areas. We will travel by car to different areas of the park. Meet at the gate just off Rt 198.
10/3/19	3 - 5 PM	Birding at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
10/5/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Rocks State Park	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Mark Magnani (mmagnini@people.com or 410-838-1778) and Debbie Bowers (bowerspub@hotmail.com or 410-913-8979). Description: Some hiking on hilly trails is involved. After the main walk we will visit one or more picnic areas that will require a \$3 (\$5 out-of-state) fee. Gather at the Ranger Station parking lot on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd.
10/5/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Little Bennett RP for Beginners	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For reservations and directions contact leader Gemma Radko, gradko@yahoo.com. Description: All are welcome but we especially encourage those new to birding to join us. We'll slowly walk some of the woodland trails looking for migrant and resident birds. Reservations required. Limit: 8.
10/5/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed.
10/5/19	8 - 10:30 AM	Habitat Walk: Lake Roland Serpentine	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426, and Dwight Johnson. Description: The SW corner of Lake Roland park is a mix of pine forest and serpentine barrens. Explore the plants and birds of this unusual site. Meet at the Lake Roland/Falls Rd. light rail station to carpool. Moderate difficulty, includes some rocky trails. Trip limited to 12; must register with Peter Lev.
10/5/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Trip to Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: We'll spend the morning exploring several of the refuge's trails and overlooks, looking for a variety of migrants. Meet at the Tundra Swan boardwalk at the N end of the island at 8 AM.
10/5/19	10 AM - 12 PM	Hawk Identification at the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Meet at the Discovery Center at Deep Creek Lake where Ranger Samantha Dixon will help us refine our hawk identification skills.
10/5/19	10 AM - 3 PM	UM Big Sit	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com. Description: The Club will once again hold a Big Sit. All are welcome to bring a chair and sky watch or interact with the farm's visitors at the Club booth just outside the front lawn tent on the University Farm on Folly Quarter Rd. Handicap accessible.
10/5-6/19	All day	Cape May Weekend	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact Kathy Brown for details, 301-865-1369. Description: Searching for fall migrants and waterfowl.
10/6/19	7:30 - 10:30 AM	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Join us for the monthly walk along paved paths as well as grass and dirt paths through varied habitat looking for resident birds, including early migrants. Meet at top parking lot past the sports fields.
10/6/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Soldier's Delight Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Sarah Luttrell, luttrell.sa@gmail.com or 614-352-7718. Description: Expect to see a wide variety of migrating songbirds. Meet at the Overlook on Deer Park Rd. We will cover 1.5-2 miles of level but sometimes rocky terrain. Trails can be muddy if the weather has been wet.
10/6/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Birding on the Liberty Watershed	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Please contact the Harveys at 410-795-3117. Description: Liberty Watershed off Bollinger Mill Road in Eldersburg is a good spot for warblers and possibly waterfowl. Moderate hiking which, depending on the weather, could be a little muddy.
10/6/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net. Description: Explore the diverse habitats of scenic and historic Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens. Reservations required. Limit 25.
10/6/19	11 AM - 3 PM	Hawk Watch at Dan's Rock	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Join Samantha Dixon and Caroline Blizzard to look for migrating hawks.
10/6/19	All day	Assateague National Seashore Bird Trip	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Assateague National Seashore for falcons, possible seabirds, warblers and sparrows. All day trip, bring drink and lunch.
10/8/19	7 AM - 12 PM	Boat Trip at Jug Bay	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For reservations (required), contact Maureen Blades at mblades5@verizon.net or 301-262-5148. Description: 3-hour pontoon boat birding trip. Check in by 7 AM; depart promptly at 7:30 AM from the boat launch area of Jackson's Landing. Boat fee: \$6/Prince George's and Montgomery County residents; \$8/all others. Limit: 20 participants.



10/8/19	8 - 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Ron Davis, ronldavis1963@gmail.com or 410-821-1297. Description: Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of migration. Beginning birders welcome.
10/12/19	6 AM - 6 PM	Big Sit at Ft. Smallwood Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: We will start before dawn hoping for owls and stay until the park closes at dusk! Bring a chair and food to share. Proceed to the parking area by the white Battery Hartshorne along the beach.
10/12/19	All day	Big Sit at Bogle's Wharf, Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Join us in our Big Sit circle at Bogle's Wharf any time from first light (when birds are most active) to mid-afternoon, and stay as long as you would like. Sunday, October 13 is bad-weather backup date.
10/12/19	7 AM - 12 PM	Field Trip to Indian Springs	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Mark Abdy, 301-432-7696 or mjabdy@yahoo.com to participate. Description: Half-day trip to Indian Springs WMA. Depart DMV lot, 18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Drive.
10/12/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Northampton Furnace Trail (Loch Raven Watershed) Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader John Dennehy. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: One-mile level trail through woods to water overlooks. Possibly muddy spots, boots recommended. Telescopes may be useful for waterfowl.
10/12/19	8 - 11 AM	Birding at Lake Elkhorn	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Allen Lewis, allenrlewis@gmail.com. Description: Easy walking along the lake and to Forbay Pond. Late migrants will be moving through. No facilities. Handicap accessible. Meet at Dockside parking lot.
10/12/19	8 AM - 5 PM	Cape May Hawk Migration and Sea Watch	Host: YMOS. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Description: Though a long day, this is a great trip for all levels of birders. We'll carpool from both the Eastern and Western Shores and spend the day in Cape May during the peak of raptor migration.
10/12/19	10:30 AM - 3 PM	Hawk Watch at Town Hill	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Join Ray Kiddy to look for migrating hawks. Meet at the Overlook on old Rt 40. Plan for a late lunch at the nearby Oak Barrel Café.
10/13/19	7 AM - 12 PM	Beauvoir on La Trappe Creek Bird Trip	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Warren Maruyama (202-253-3844). Description: We will explore Beauvoir, a wintering spot for woodcock and excellent place for migrating waterfowl as well as passerines. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
10/13/19	7:45 AM - 12 PM	Birding at West Friendship Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Jeff Culler, cullersfuls@hotmail.com or 410-465-9006. Description: Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. Expect wet areas. Rustic facilities. Meet at shopping center just west of Rt. 32 and Rt. 144 to carpool.
10/13/19	9 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
10/13/19	10 AM - 3 PM	Bird Walk at Shawnee State Park, PA	Host: Allegany/Garrett/ Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Meet at the Diehl Boat Ramp on Rt 96 just beyond the Park entrance. Carpool from Cumberland will leave the Rosen's Store parking lot at 9 AM. Lunch at the Jean Bonnett Tavern in Bedford.
10/15/19	8 - 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769. Description: Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of migration. Beginning birders welcome.
10/15/19		Birding at Lilypons	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact Orietta Estrada for meeting time and location (240-344-6137). Description: Local morning search for migrants and early waterfowl. A great trip for beginners as well as experienced birders. Trails can be uneven and overgrown.
10/17/19	3 - 5 PM	Birding at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
10/18/19	8 - 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! Meet at 3001 East Drive to start the walk.
10/19/19	7 AM - 3 PM	Birding at Assateague	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Contact Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: We'll search for coastal migrants, especially hawks, warblers and sparrows. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7 AM or at the National Seashore Visitor Center parking lot (before the bridge) at 7:45 AM.



BIRDING

10/19/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile east of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
10/19/19	8 - 10:30 AM	Birding at Wooten's Landing	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Leo Dilling at 703-282-0011 or leodilling@hotmail.com. Description: The park includes several reconstructed wetlands and an observation deck along a loop trail.
10/19/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side.
10/19/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Birding the Upper Gunpowder River	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact Henry Leskinen for more information at 410-259-6572. Description: Expect to see a variety of birds, including late fall migrants, winter visitors, and possibly owls. Meet at the parking lot in front of the North Carroll Senior Center at 2328 Hanover Pike to carpool.
10/19/19	9 - 11 AM	Bird Walk at Fred Archibald Sanctuary	Host: Audubon Society of Central Maryland. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071. Description: Bi-monthly naturalist-led walk.
10/19/19	Half day	Sparrow ID Trip	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Contact Bonnie Ott, sparrowdamsel@gmail.com or 443-285-3302 to sign up and get info. Description: Search the wetland and dry fields in this intensive search for sparrows. Expect difficult walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Facilities at some spots. Limit 10.
10/20/19	7:30 - 10 AM	Wade's Point Birding	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leaders Susan Henyon (240-682-3882) and Ron Ketter (707-373-5532). Description: Morning walk at Wade's Point. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.
10/20/19	8 - 10:30 AM	Birding at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Pat & Juanita Tate at 410-615-5133 or jpt@earthlink.com. Description: Join us for our monthly walk on paved paths through habitat that includes mature deciduous forest, wood edges, mowed fields, wetlands, and a native plant garden. Meet at the Blue Heron Center.
10/20/19	9 AM - 12 PM	Irvine Nature Center Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader John Landers, 410-292-9549 or dado1bw@aol.com. Description: A great spot for sparrows, raptors and other birds of this transitional season.
10/20/19	10 AM - 12 PM	Hawk Watch at Black Walnut Point	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: After the morning walk at Wade's Point we will convene at Black Walnut Point parking lot for the Hawk Watch. Join us when you can, leave when you want. Lawn chairs or folding chairs are highly encouraged. Bring drinks, lunch or snacks to relax and enjoy the show.
10/22/19	8 - 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park Bird Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Debbie & Lou Taylor, 410-852-9807 or debrataylor11@gmail.com. Description: Last in a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of migration. Beginning birders welcome. Lunch will follow at McFaul's Ironhorse Tavern at 11 AM. If you would just like to attend the lunch, please contact Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.
10/26/19	8 - 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in Southeast Baltimore. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of East Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave.
10/26/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Blue Mash	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For more information, directions, and reservations, contact Leader Andy Martin at martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066. Description: Remembering Our Past Presidents. Join us for this year's annual walk in honor of former MBC presidents. All are welcome. Reservations required.
10/27/19	All day	Chincoteague NWR Bird Trip	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Terry Allen (410-829-5840). Description: Shorebirds, gulls and large flocks of waterfowl are the highlights of this trip. Bring drink and lunch. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
11/2/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Rt 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed.
11/2/19	8 AM - 5 PM	Assateague National Seashore Bird Trip	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: We will spend the day exploring trails and beaches, with a possible detour to Ocean City before heading home. Bring lunch. Meet at Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace, Chestertown at 8 AM.
11/2/19	8 AM - 5 PM	Birding at Chincoteague NWR	Host: YMOS. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Description: This is a great opportunity to get a good look at numerous bird species. Waterfowl will be back. Lodging will be provided Fri and/or Sat nights for students coming from a distance.

11/2/19		Field Trip to C&O Canal	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact George Warrick at 301-799-9059 or wildbird@myactv.net for meeting time and place. Description: Morning outing along the C&O Canal.
11/3/19	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Frederick Douglass Park Birding Trip	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leaders Ron Ketter (707-373-5532) and Susan Henyon (240-682-3882). Description: The Park borders the Tuckahoe River and Norwich Creek. Expect late neotropical migrants as well as sparrows and migrating raptors. Depart Easton Acme Parking lot at 7 AM.
11/3/19	8 - 11 AM	Birding at Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, richard@rrrrpeters.org. Description: Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Facilities available, Handicap accessible. Meet at west end parking lot.
11/3/19	8 AM - 12 PM	Birding at Oaks Landfill	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Contact the leader Mark England for reservations and more information, 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell). Description: Explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Reservations are essential. Limit 16.

MEETINGS

9/3/19	7 - 9 PM	Cylburn Arboretum, Greenhouse Classroom	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: "The Ordinary, Extraordinary Chimney Swift" presented by Joan Cwi.
9/4/19	7 - 9 PM	Carroll Nonprofit Center	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact CJ McAuliffe at cjhome@wildblue.net. Description: "The Dozen Most Important Things You Can Do for Birds and Bird Conservation" by Paul Baicich.
9/5/19	7 - 9 PM	Homewood at Crumland Farms	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Description: Phil Davis will speak on "Chasing the Endemics of the Canary Islands and Cape Verde".
9/9/19	7 - 9 PM	Bayleigh Chase Auditorium	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Dr. Wayne H Bell will speak on "Introducing the Third Breeding Bird Atlas" which begins January 1, 2020; just when local owls begin their breeding behavior. Business meeting after speaker question and answers.
9/10/19	7 - 8:30 PM	Compton Hall	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Raquel Ketterman at raquelketterman@verizon.net. Description: Speaker Dr. Rebekah Taylor: "Ticks in Western Maryland and the Pathogens They Carry".
9/10/19	7 - 8:30 PM	Heron Point	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Speaker TBA
9/10/19	7 - 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Building	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Description: "Everything Monarch". Lisa and Chris Garrett will discuss their trip to Michoacan, Mexico to visit the El Rosario Biosphere Reserve, the largest of the Monarch Butterfly overwintering roosts.
9/12/19	7 - 9 PM	Robinson Nature Center	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Contact Sue Muller, muller@howardcountymd.gov. Description: "Farmland Raptor Nest Box Project in Montgomery & Fredrick Counties" by the Owl Moon Raptor Center.
9/14/19	4 - 7 PM	Home of Paul Bystrak and Marylee Ross	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. For directions, contact Paul Bystrak at shrike@comcast.net. Description: Bring a covered dish. Drinks are provided.
9/18/19	7 - 9 PM	Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Chris Eberly at director@marylandbirds.org. Description: Join us for our annual Open House and Social. Members will be sharing the latest in birding gear, including field guides, optics, and clothing for the field!

MEETINGS

9/18/19	7 - 9 PM	Potomac Presbyterian Church	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Description: Phil Davis on "The Canary Islands and Cape Verde Islands: More Macaronesian Endemics and Other Entertaining Stuff".
9/19/19	7:30 - 9 PM	Caroline County Public Library	Host: Caroline County Bird Club. Program: Celebration of Bill Scudder's 60 years of contributions to Caroline County Bird Club and the Maryland Ornithological Society.
9/23/19	7 - 9:30 PM	MAC Educational Center	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: "Holland - Birds and Art by Barge" presented by Ellen Lawler.
9/24/19	7 - 9 PM	Mt. Aetna Nature Center	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Call 301-797-8454 for additional information. Description: Program: "Birds of MD, Delaware, & DC", and "Miracle Pond" with photographer Middleton Evans.
10/1/19	7 - 9 PM	Cylburn Arboretum, Greenhouse Classroom	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: "Filming birds in China, Philippines, Thailand, and Costa Rica", presented by Martin Brazeau.
10/2/19	7 - 9 PM	Carroll Nonprofit Center	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact CJ McAuliffe at cjhome@wildblue.net. Description: "Support for Kestrels, Owls, and Chimney Swifts: What Are We Doing around the State?" by Chris Eberly and associates.
10/3/19	7 - 9 PM	Homewood at Crumland Farms	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Description: Paul Baichich will speak on "A Shade-grown and Bird-compatible Coffee Future".
10/8/19	7 - 8:30 PM	Compton Hall	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Raquel Ketterman at raquelketterman@verizon.net. Description: Coordinators for the Breeding Bird Atlas will discuss "Breeding Bird Atlas Project 2020 - What It is and How Members Can Participate".
10/8/19	7 - 8:30 PM	Heron Point	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Speaker TBA.
10/8/19	7 - 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Building	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Description: Program and presenter TBA.
10/10/19	7 - 9 PM	Robinson Nature Center	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Contact Sue Muller, smuller@howardcountymd.gov. Description: "North on the Wing—Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring" by Bruce M. Beehler, PHD.
10/14/19	7 - 9 PM	Bayleigh Chase Auditorium	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Dr. Bruce Beehler will talk on "North on the Wing, Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring." Business meeting after speaker question and answers.
10/16/19	7 - 9 PM	Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Chris Eberly at director@marylandbirds.org. Description: Monthly member meeting.
10/16/19	7 - 9 PM	Potomac Presbyterian Church	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Description: Daphne Gemmill: "Report from Vieques: Hurricane Maria's Impact on the Birds of Puerto Rico".
10/17/19	7:30 - 9 PM	Caroline County Public Library	Host: Caroline County Bird Club. Description: Dr. Bruce Beehler presenter. "North on the Wing--Tracking Songbirds on their Spring Migration"
10/22/19	6 - 9 PM	Mt. Aetna Nature Center	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Call 301-797-8454 for further information. Description: Enjoy a potluck dinner. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Meeting follows at 7 PM. Program: "Northern Goshawk Project" with David Brinker.

10/26/19	5 - 8 PM	Penn Alps Restaurant	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Description: Banquet Speaker is Kevin Dodge. To make a reservation contact Carol McDaniel at 301-895-5801 or mail your check made out to the AG Bird Club to Carol McDaniel, 437 Serenity Dr. Grantsville MD 21536. Reservations must be made by Oct 23.
10/28/19	7 - 9:30 PM	MAC Educational Center	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: "Students and Restored Habitats at Pickering Creek" presented by Mark Scallion, Director, and Mary Helen Gillen, Education Manager.

COUNTS

9/14/19	Washington Fall Count	Contact Doris Berger, 301-739-8907 or dberger@md.net, to participate.
9/15/19	Allegany/Garrett Fall Count	Contact Chuck Hager at drhager@verizon.net.
9/21/19	Caroline Fall Count	Contact Debby Bennett at dabennett1996@gmail.com.
9/21/19	Dorchester 22 nd Annual Fall Count	Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com if you can help.
9/21/19	Howard Fall Count	Please go to the following link to sign up: howardbirds.org/howard/counts.html . Compiler Mike McClure, 410-531-2780, Michael.McClure@jhuapl.edu.
9/21/19	Talbot 22 nd Annual Fall Count	Contact Ron Ketter (707-373-5532) if you can help.
9/21/19	Taylor's Island, Dorchester Fall Count	Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance.
9/21/19	Wicomico Fall Count	Contact Paul Bystrak, 410-572-9950 or shrike@comcast.net.
9/22/19	Calvert Fall Count	Compiler Sherman Suter, 703-768-5922 or 410-586-1073, shermansuter@gmail.com.
9/22/19	Carroll Fall Count	Contact CJ McAuliffe to verify your bird-counting area (cjhome@wildblue.net or 443-398-6483).
9/22/2019	Kent Fall Count	Walter Ellison/Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, rossgull61@gmail.com.
9/22/19	Prince Georges Fall Count	Contact compiler Fred Fallon (fwfallon@ymail.com) to receive an assigned area and for more information.
09/22/19	Somerset Fall Count	Contact Pat Valdata, Crisfield, MD, pvaldat1@gmail.com.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: <https://mdbirds.org/calendar/>.

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Permit No. 625**Stephanie Lovell****1937-2019**

Stephanie Lovell, President of the Montgomery Bird Club for the past year and just re-elected for a second year, died of cancer on June 11th, peacefully, surrounded by her family.

Stephanie was strong, outspoken, passionate about birds and nature in general and dedicated to our Club. As President, she was efficient, involved, and took her duties to heart. Despite the deterioration of her health, she attended practically each of the year's meetings and continued to host the Council meetings, with dinner, at her home.

Last January, she offered to lead a bird trip to Ocean City and other sites on the Eastern Shore. Cheryl Hogue, who co-led this trip, remembers "the delight on Stephanie's face as she was marveling at a late-afternoon flight of Snow Geese. She eagerly snapped photos and took in favorite bird haunts as well as a favorite breakfast place as if it were her last visit there." She had a "can do" attitude said Mike Bowen; "She was one of those rare people who was perpetually willing to accept responsibilities without demur or fuss".

When I last spoke with Stephanie, less than a week before her death, she did not complain about pain, or being stuck home in the nice Spring weather. She expressed concern that she had not yet started reading the book she would review in the next issue of our newsletter. I tried to reassure her and decided to call her back very soon. We had grown closer as the year progressed, she was great to work with, and I looked forward to another year. But that was not to be.

Stephanie had a large and loving family (3 daughters and sons-in-law, 8 grandkids spread between California, France, and Tunisia). She had many friends, local and faraway and we heard from several of them. Most interesting was a mail from her friends at the Hartford Audubon Society (CT). She was a member of HAS from 1995 on, president in 2003-05, and member of the year of in 2007. There, she is remembered for being "ardent in her birding and brooking no foolishness when on the prowl".

We will miss her. Thank you, Stephanie.

Evelyn Ralston, Vice President, Montgomery Bird Club

